SUGIYAMA Appl. No. 09/873,287 July 14, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 7-12 are drawn to a patentably distinct invention now cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-6 are amended below to overcome formality-based grounds of rejection:

1. (Currently Amended) A multilayered gas sensing element comprising:

laminated layers comprising a zirconia series at least one solid electrolytic sheet

containing zirconia and an alumina serial at least one insulating sheet containing alumina,

a bonding boundary intervening between said zirconia seriessolid electrolytic sheet and said alumina seriesinsulating sheet, and

said bonding boundary including at least partly a crystal phase containing silicon

2. (Currently Amended) The A multilayered gas sensing element as in accordance withclaim 1, where said crystal phase further contains at least one component selected from the group consisting of: calcium oxide, magnesium oxide, barium oxide, and strontium oxide.

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3. (Currently Amended) The A multilayered gas sensing element as in accordance with claim 1, where said bonding boundary between said zirconia series solid electrolytic sheet and said alumina series insulating sheet is undulated.

- 4. (Currently Amended) The multilayered gas sensing element as in accordance with claim 1, where a crystal lattice of said zirconia series solid electrolytic sheet is connected to a crystal lattice of said alumina series insulating sheet in said bonding boundary.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The A multilayered gas sensing element as in accordance withclaim 1, wherein a thermal expansion coefficient difference between said zirconia series solid electrolytic sheet and said alumina series insulating sheet is equal to or less than 2x10⁻⁶.
- 6. (Currently Amended) The Amultilayered gas sensing element as in accordance withclaim 1, wherein a sintering contraction coefficient difference between said zirconia series solid electrolytic sheet and said alumina-series insulating sheet is equal to or less than 3%.

Claims 7-12 cancelled.

Please add new claim 13:

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and.

13. (New) A multilayered gas sensing element as in claim 1, where said solid electrolytic sheet contains yttria.

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